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March 1985



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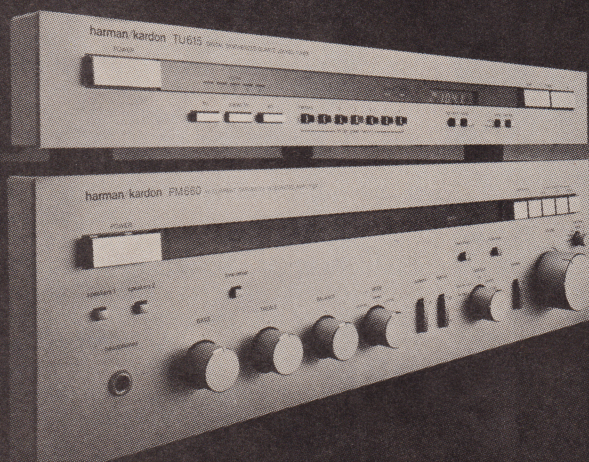
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I've got Grade 12 and I read a lot of science fiction," ex-cab driver Sandra Meldrum told her examiner, confident that her qualifications for computer school were impeccable.

Fi Dastoor, who would pick 15 students deemed capable of handling the rigorous 15-month program she'd be dishing out, wasn't so sure the young woman could handle it. But with an unconventional mandate on her side, she could afford to choose among potential pupils who met the basic criteria. Sandra got into the school.

She joined a select group of Halifax women with little in common and much to separate them — social, economic and educational differences as incompatible as the lives of an accomplished upper-middle class university grad and a single parent struggling to raise children on welfare. Sandra learned to co-operate with her diverse classmates and eventually excelled at her lessons. And now her once-skeptical examiner jokes about including a passion for sci-fi in the program's entrance criteria.

"The diversity of their education and cultures made co-operation difficult within class at first," said Dastoor, who heads the Centre for Computer Studies on Barrington Street. It's a punchy upstart among

## Determined class conquers computers

*An upstart computer school at the Halifax YWCA is running a tough program to keep women up to date for the high-tech job market*

*by Deborah Jones*

computer schools that not only teaches its students but aggressively seeks jobs for them too. At the moment, its director is elegantly perched behind her desk in the attic of a renovated old house and is musing about how the group nearly burned out 12 months into the course. "It's long months of slogging, especially through the hot grueling summer, when there's no break. And it's heavy going with mature students not used to this sitting behind a desk from nine to five."

Perhaps it was a survival instinct that kept most of the students together. They were all members of an expanding group: women over 25 with inappropriate skills for jobs in a high-tech work force. Tedious statistics explain ad nauseum how thousands of women have been left behind by technological advancements that are making traditional jobs obsolete. Retraining programs like the centre's, organized under the umbrella of the YWCA with help from the Nova Scotia education department and funded by the federal government's Skills Growth Fund, provide only a drop of relief in the proverbial bucket. Nevertheless, the YWCA computer school gives at

Dastoor (seated), Grant and Meldrum: mastering the ins and outs of computers



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least a few of the skills needed to compete for jobs.

At the end of March, the first 12 graduates will leave the school, qualified as computer programmers with a business orientation. The course, Dastoor explains, parallels those offered by universities but falls short of a degree program by four credits. Explaining the centre's program on a tour of its historic building beside the main YWCA complex, she says, "it's a good, all-round, basic education in computers." Along with two instructors, Dastoor handles the daily classes held in a sunny but cramped second floor room. The course includes a co-operative work stint with local companies and centre staff also lobby businesses for permanent jobs for graduates. The March completion date, one month earlier than that of universities, helps to give the women an edge in the competitive job market, says Dastoor.

The first group includes four single moms, an ex-music teacher and a biochemist. They were referred to the centre by the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission, qualifying partly because they lacked independent financing. For the past 15 months they've learned the ins and outs of computer languages including Cobol, Fortran, RPG II and III, "C-Language" and BASIC IV on Prime 2250 mini-computers. They can now design and code commercial applications and are conversant with Lotus 1-2-3, word processing and Visicalc spreadsheet systems on IBM, Wang and Plato education systems, says Dastoor.

When Sheila Grant entered the centre's program, she already "realized what a powerful tool a computer is." Years ago, while training in biochemistry (she holds a master's degree), she used computers to "crunch" statistical numbers and obtain assessments and graphs. But Grant had been out of the work force for 18 years raising children, and despite working sporadically for the past eight years felt she needed upgrading to prepare for a full-time job.

"Basic biochemistry doesn't change, but technology does, and I'd like to get into a field related to medical science," she said. "In this sort of course, you get a total overview. It's not a piece of cake, it's very intensive and is total immersion in computers.

"It's not a gracious education," she adds with a wry smile, waving her arms to emphasize the point. "It's a technical course, so people can learn and get out to work with the minimum time spent in training. When I'm finished, I'll be qualified to apply for a lot of jobs. I feel this is a very good option for women."

Unlike Grant, when Sandra Mel-





drum finished high school, she decided to work a while before going to university. "I just never did go. I worked in a bank, and was a taxi driver for five years. Then I decided to get back into the real work force. With Grade 12, all I could get was a fish packing job. And after standing for eight hours in steel-toed boots I got sick."

An avid science fiction fan, Mel-drum went to see the movie "Brain-storm" about computers at about the same time she was laid off from her packing job. Then a growing fascination with the machines was sparked when she found out about the YWCA centre. Despite doubts about being able to handle the mathematics in the course, she applied.

"I'm doing well, but it's hard work and the enthusiasm wore off a long time ago," she says. "But I really see this as a turning point in my life. Last January, when I began, seems like another lifetime ago. Now I feel confident I'll be able to get a job. And besides the education, it's also given me confidence in myself, made me realize the potential that I didn't think I had. While I didn't think I'd always be a taxi driver, I feel a lot better about myself now."

There's no guarantee that the first graduates from the Y's computer school will find a niche in the work-force. But they, and their teachers, feel their chances of finding satisfying employment have vastly improved. Dastoor, who unabashedly admits to using business contacts she made as a computer consultant to lobby for jobs for her students, says 10 already have jobs lined up.

As final exams begin, Dastoor is already deciding which of 80 applicants will get into the 15 spots available in the next session, beginning in April. And she's lobbying in the business community to make her program more visible — it's the first venture by a Canadian YWCA into full-time computer education and is being watched by branch organizations elsewhere, she says.

Running a unique YWCA computer school is not the first time Dastoor has run up a "first." More than 20 years ago, she was one of the first nine women to graduate with bachelor of science degrees from the London School of Economics' computer division. She spent 20 years working at various jobs in the industry until volunteer work with the Halifax YWCA "caused me to re-evaluate what I wanted to do with my career at the time. I felt I should give something back to the community. Now 12 women who didn't have jobs are trained in computers. You don't go into YWCA programs to make money, but the satisfaction I get from helping people makes up for it." **C**

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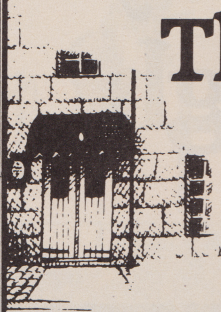
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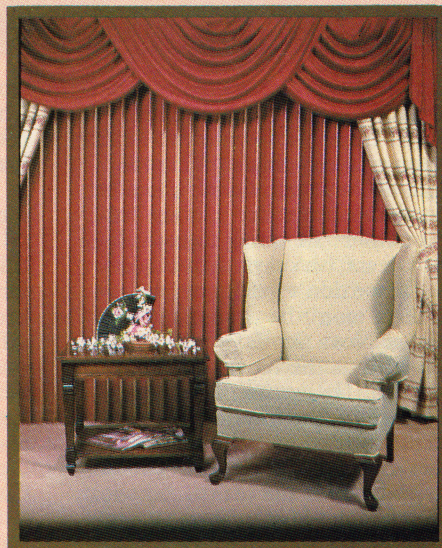
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# The Oilers' great hockey isn't enough for fans

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*Some say ticket prices are too high but other factors are involved. The bottom line is: can Halifax keep supporting professional hockey?*

*by Jim Davidson*

A pained expression crosses Brett Cameron's bearded face as he looks out from his downtown Halifax office on to a city that's giving his favorite hockey team an icy shoulder. "It's a well-known fact that the Edmonton Oilers are going to try it here for two years," he says with a heavy sigh. "If we don't get more fan support, there won't be professional hockey in Nova Scotia."

Cameron is the Nova Scotia Oilers' biggest fan. He merits that title for both his giant-like physical size and his position as president of the Oilers' booster club.

Attendance at the team's American Hockey League home games is way down this year and when the booster club president says things aren't going well, you know they aren't.

Since he came to Halifax five years ago, Cameron has missed only a handful of American Hockey League games at the Metro Centre. On his office wall hangs a Nova Scotia Voyageurs' team

clock, a souvenir from an old love. The Voyageurs — better known in Metro as the Vees — had been Halifax's pro team from 1971 to last June.

That's when the Edmonton Oilers took over from the Montreal Canadiens as the National Hockey League affiliate. The Canadiens moved their farm team closer to home in Sherbrooke, Quebec. Edmonton's former affiliate was in Moncton.

Cameron says the switch is no big deal with the fans. The Canadiens consistently provided Halifax with a good team, but the Oilers also have a sound organization, one that won the Stanley Cup last year.

As befits a booster club president, Cameron is optimistic things will get better. His laughter booms out as he sits back talking about hockey. But his laughter stops when the conversation drifts to how Halifax has been supporting its team.

Last year, the Vees drew an average of 4,132 fans to each game — a respec-

table figure — but the Canadiens reportedly lost between \$500,000 and \$700,000. This year the crowds at the Metro Centre have averaged less than 3,000.

But that doesn't mean the Oilers are taking a bath in red ink. Ticket prices are higher this year. But with only 3,000 fans a game, it is a decidedly unprofitable enterprise.

Minor league hockey is a complicated business. In most cases, an NHL team owns its minor league club and wants to develop players for the main team as inexpensively as possible. Players' salaries are the biggest cost and most revenue comes from ticket sales. Low attendance and losing money go hand in hand. If an NHL team loses too much money, it is only natural it would think of moving to a greener looking city.

But if the Oilers pull up stakes, it won't be until the end of next season at the earliest because Edmonton took over the last two years of the Cana-







diens' Metro Centre lease. Operations director John Blackwell, the farm club's main liaison with Edmonton, says the NHL team will be patient and any decision to leave won't be made until next season, if at all.

However, the distant early warning lights are starting to flash. If Edmonton is to make a go of it in Halifax, more fans are needed.

So why aren't more Nova Scotians attending Oilers' games? Team management, fans and sports writers are impressed with the fast-skating, exciting, Edmonton-style play the team has displayed. The quality of the hockey in the league is also at a high level. When the Central Hockey League folded, more good hockey players were available for the AHL. Few would argue with Halifax's *Daily News* editor, Al Hollingsworth, that "the league has changed and changed for the better. Now it's faster and has more finesse. It's more like the way whoever made the game intended it to be."

So, once again, why is the Metro Centre so empty? The answer is complicated. Hockey attendance depends on many things, like a team's win-loss record, whether it is in a tight race for playoffs, rivalries with other teams and even the weather on a given night. But according to Cameron it comes down to one main factor — those darn ticket prices.

That line is frequently heard in the buzz of conversation in the city's main sports conversation centre — the Midtown Tavern. Midtown owner Doug Grant, a season ticket holder, hears all the talk and he sums up his patrons' consensus. "The Oilers have a good team and it's better hockey to watch than last season's. The ticket prices are the problem. I think they would have been better off to put the price at \$6.00."

The price the Oilers picked is \$8.00, a hefty increase over last year's top charge of \$5.00. Team management has also reduced the number of

tickets given away. Only children and senior citizens get in cheaply — they pay \$4.00.

Arnie Patterson, president of radio station CFDR in Dartmouth, says the Oilers should have checked history books before drastically hiking ticket prices. Patterson knows his hockey — he's been involved with the game since he started broadcasting in 1949 with former Hockey Night in Canada announcer Danny Gallivan. CFDR covered the Vees' games for nine years.

Like Grant, Patterson thinks the Oilers should have raised prices gradually. When the Vees arrived in Nova Scotia in 1971 the biggest problem they faced was their ticket prices. "The Vees used to have the highest ticket prices in the league and there was a terrible controversy about it," says Patterson. "It took the team a long time to recover from that." The

**Above: Empty seats at the Metro Centre: does Halifax care about its hockey team?**

PHOTOS BY KEVIN O'REILLY



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Veas were a troubled franchise in the early years, placing last in league attendance in 1971 and second last in the next two seasons.

Still, there were good reasons for this year's increase. Nova Scotia fans were getting the cheapest tickets in the league and the new prices are in line with the rest of the AHL. "The Oilers felt they had to charge AHL prices and ascertain whether this city can support an AHL team," says assistant coach Bob Boucher.

If every fan could spend a half hour with Oilers' marketing director Larry Haley, most would probably agree the team did the right thing. He contends that it's only fair that people should pay the going rate. The problem, he says, is that when people are getting something for next to nothing they don't like having to pay for it all of a sudden.

He also points to the Moncton Golden Flames and the Fredericton Express — the other AHL teams in Atlantic Canada — to show that the Oilers aren't charging too much. Those clubs have similar ticket scales but they have increased their attendance this season.

For those reasons, Haley won't admit that raising ticket prices was a mistake. But the team probably could have done a better marketing job at the start of the season. "We started out by saying let the hockey team sell itself," he says. There were few promotional nights, where the club and a local sponsor give things away to fans. Average attendance for the first 10 games was under 2,500.

The rule of thumb in the minors is

"promote, promote, promote." In Fredericton, coach and general manager Earl Jessiman says, "We've had calendar nights, autograph nights, camera nights, everything nights. That's what you've got to do. The difference between here and the NHL is that in the minors you have to sell yourself and you have to work hard at it."

A few months into the season, the Oilers started running more promotions and attendance picked up, although it's still well behind that of last year's Veas' games.

While the higher cost of a ticket is seen as the main reason for poor attendance, it's not the only one. For the last three seasons the crowds have been gradually getting smaller. In 1981-82 total attendance reached 191,761. In the next season it dropped to 182,933 and last season it was down to 161,132.

One would think that a healthy Halifax economy would be good for a hockey franchise, but some say it's a double-edged sword. Boucher, who coached at St. Mary's University for 13 years, has kept a keen eye on the city and its hockey scene for the past 20 years. He thinks Halifax's growth has made running a professional team more difficult.

"Halifax has really exploded in the past four years in terms of entertainment," he says. "The downtown core is full of night spots vying for the entertainment dollar. People are spending more money on those things and that has an effect on the amount of dollars they're willing to spend on us."

Boucher says he gets plenty of feedback from fans about the Oilers. He

**CITYSTYLE**



thinks the team's followers would like to see more Maritime players in uniform, so they could feel it is *their* team. Because the Montreal-Edmonton switch didn't happen until a new season had almost started, there was little chance to recruit local players. Next year it could be different. "I think Edmonton will spend more time looking at players with a Maritime background," says Boucher. That might make people less likely to think it's an outside team.

Local hockey competition is another factor, says Hollingsworth. Besides the Oilers, fans can watch junior and senior hockey or university games at Dalhousie and St. Mary's. "The Oilers aren't the only act in town, so they'll have to hustle," he says.

The Oilers' players have earned a reputation as a hustling bunch. They want the team to stay where it is. The bright and tidy, 9,549-seat Metro Centre is an excellent arena and the city is as good as any that the minor leagues play in.

Defenceman Lowell Loveday, a six-year AHL veteran in his first season with the Oilers, says that "Halifax is great. There's lots to do, I think everyone on the team likes it." But when he's asked about attendance, he shrugs his shoulders. "It's such a big arena that if you get 2,500 fans it looks so empty," he says. "It would be nice to have a lot of fans."

Will the fans come back? Boucher's

point about Halifax's booming entertainment industry providing tough competition for a professional hockey team is shared by many others in local hockey circles. It's possible that there just aren't enough people interested to keep professional hockey in Halifax.

Patterson hopes that isn't so. "I really believe the hockey club is important here. It carries the name Nova Scotia to a lot of places."

He's been a fan since the first AHL puck dropped here 14 years ago and he can remember hard times before. In the not-so-good old days, the franchise wasn't strong but more fans came out when they had to. He's betting they'll do the same again.

Brett Cameron shares that optimism. "There's no doubt in my mind there are enough hockey fans here to run a franchise," he says. But there's a selling job to be done to get more of them to the rink. As Cameron says, there is a hard core of 2,500 to 3,000 fans who come to nearly all the games. They've been pleased with what they've seen. Another 3,000 hockey fans who used to attend Vees games are out there but because of ticket prices, or for other reasons, they haven't been showing up this season. If Edmonton is going to keep a team in Halifax beyond next season, those people must be enticed to support the Oilers. **C**



## We forgot to say thanks.

In City Fashion (Winter boring? Accessories make you look great Jan. 85) we showed you how to brighten a winter wardrobe through the use of accessories, but we forgot to tell you where to get them. Our apology to the readers, and our special thanks to the Tweed Shop for providing the model, coats, scarves and tweed hat; The Wardrobe Too (jewelry, belt, rhinestone tie); The Shoe Inn (shoes, buttons and bows); and Charles Brown Furriers (fur hat with veil).

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# A light in a dark, indifferent world

*No one in need is refused at the Brunswick Street United Church. Hard-working parishioners are glad to help the church fulfil its time-honored mission*

*by Denise Brun*

**D**estitute men show up on the doorstep at 7 a.m., seeking their first coffee of the day. The Brunswick Street United Church turns no one away: it is the only place where many of Halifax's down-and-out can find warm shelter, hot coffee and the use of a washroom.

This inner-city church has been caring for the poor and destitute and society's outcasts for many years. "I

would have starved to death when I was a kid if it wasn't for this church," a man recently told Reverend Rod McAuley as he handed over a donation for a needy child. It was his way of thanking the church for giving him a place to go when he was growing up in a family of eight children.

The church's reputation as the largest inner-city mission church in Eastern Canada is well established. McAuley says his church is 20 per cent sanctuary, administering to people's spiritual needs, and 80 per cent service to fill voids left by provincial and municipal social services.

Osborne Crowell, a lively octogenarian who has belonged to the church all his life, is proud of how active it is. "Every day it is a hive of activity from seven o'clock onwards," he says. "There is a program for the street men who get their first cup of coffee here and a drop-in centre for children of working parents. It's all part of the church's role today as it tries to face the needs of the area."

It is, says McAuley, "a church that everyone seems to own. It is part of the scene." But the scene it surveys today is radically different from that of 1834 when the original building was erected by the colonial city's wealthy elite. It now sits in the middle of an area just starting to recover from urban decay and the vicious poverty that

wracked it for years.

McAuley says the church has grown stronger with the passage of time because of the "deep involvement" of parishioners, like Crowell and Margaret Campbell, who is also in her 80s. These two, with self-deprecating humor, refer to themselves as "the last of the old regime." Their enthusiasm, intellectual perceptivity and zest for life belie their years.

Crowell spearheaded the effort to raise money to erect a new building after fire destroyed the original one in 1979. Campbell recently published *No Other Foundation*, a history of the Brunswick Street United Church, which took her four years to write.

Crowell was initiated into the church when his parents placed his name on the "Cradle Roll." He has been an active member since and has recorded the church minutes for more than 60 years. His finance committee — one of several he sits on — managed to build a new church free of debt. "There were many frustrating delays," he recalls, "but I always felt it was providential that things happened the way they did. We have tremendous faith and we felt sure that everything would work out for the best and it did."

The morning after the original wood and plaster church burned to the ground — a spectacle that lit up the







**Campbell:** "I never thought of it as work" night sky and was clearly visible on both sides of the harbor — the congregation met in nearby Trinity Church and determined to rebuild their church on the original foundation and record its history.

Last fall was memorable for the congregation. The new building was opened and Margaret Campbell, aided by a New Horizons grant for senior citizens, published her book. Printed by Lancelot Press of Hantsport, the book traces the history of Methodism and its affect upon the church.

"I never really thought of it as work," says Campbell. "I wrote by discovery. Everything I thought exciting and interesting I put in the book."

But for her to find enough time to finish it, much of the household work fell to her husband, Reverend Dr. Herman Campbell, minister emeritus of Brunswick Street United Church. Teamwork, obviously a hallmark of their marriage, has stood them in good stead throughout their years together.

As a minister's wife, Campbell was aware of the problems her husband faced in his ministry. In her book she describes his dismay at the sub-standard housing in Halifax's downtown core in the 1950s. It was, she



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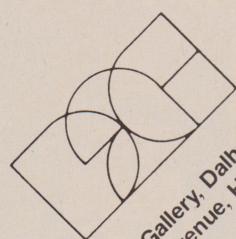
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The church before the fire

wrote, "a startling and saddening revelation of how a great many people were forced to live, and remained a tax on his pastoral concern and resources for the whole 12 years of his work in the parish."

Much of the material for the book was supplied by Osborne Crowell who, with his late wife, compiled a history of the church in 1963 after stumbling upon about 15 bundles of documents dating back to 1782 — before the congregation moved to Brunswick Street. "The secretary of the board was looking for papers and the custodian suggested we look in the safe in a little room under the pulpit," says Crowell. "We found a whole raft of material — marriage, birth and death certificates of the entire congregation as well as letters to the Wesleyan Institute in England." Fortunately Crowell made sure the material was micro-filmed by the Nova Scotia Archives.

In 1834 Brunswick Street was a suburb of Halifax and the pastoral setting seemed ideal for a new church. Today, some of the large homes built by the wealth remain — some ramshackle and others restored — but no trace remains of the fields and orchards.

Only the original foundation and part of the original frame and wood from the old church's tower remain, but the new church symbolizes a continuation of something that nothing as temporal as a fire could destroy.

Appropriately, local architect Jim Skyes chose light as the overall theme for the new building. For some, the Brunswick Street United Church is the light in a dark, indifferent world — a place of sanctuary when they need it. The parishioners are glad to help the church fulfil its age-old mission. **C**

"Where do you look for the latest trends in fashion?"

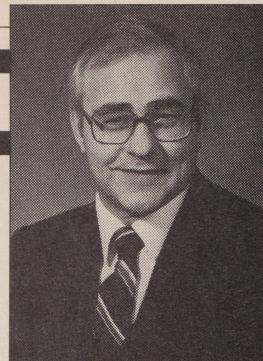
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But if you want the illusory easy way out, if you expect not to have to sweat a little to gain the potential benefits, if you expect me to provide you with a shopping list of stocks to buy, save yourself some time: go read someone else's column. This column is for those who want the satisfaction of standing on their own two feet.

Most novice investors, and many who have been at this somewhat insane game for years, lack the self-confidence to act on their own. They rely heavily on the advice of others. Most small investors lose money, too. I believe there's a direct connection.

How could you know that the broker loses money in his own account? That a particular analyst (and this is true) is so often wrong that brokers in the national brokerage firm he works for joke that they should sell short every time he recommends buying? That newspapers rely to a large extent on press releases from companies and brokerage houses with a vested interest in seeing a particular stock rise in price?

A good newsletter may be the best bet. But the news can be two weeks old by the time it tumbles through your mailbox — so you're relying on an individual's ability to tell the fu-

ture, perhaps investing thousands of dollars in that ability. Have you ever met anyone, in any field, who could consistently foretell the future?

Tremayne's Rule Number One: Don't trust tips. To do so is to gamble with the odds stacked against you.

If we are going to be among the minority of investors who are winners, we'd better recognize early in the game that stock prices more often than not have little to do with logic; their ups and downs have as much to do with psychology as they do with company profits and losses. Stock trading is an emotional process that often defies the logic of the real world. Prices, in part, move on hope and fear — both expensive to most investors.

Those new to investing sometimes think brokers have all the answers — perhaps even magic — that will turn a hard-earned nest egg into a fortune without effort on the investor's part. This type of thinking, apart from being unfair to the broker (who's only human after all), is almost certain to cost the investor money.

A good broker — and by that I mean one who has the knowledge and is willing to spend time teaching clients the art of profitable trading — is worth his weight in gold. They exist, but they have to be sought out. A great deal of what I know is owed to such brokers. I owe a lot, too, to the bad ones; they taught me to develop self-reliance.

And what about those analysts employed by full-service brokerage houses? They are highly paid to generate "products" on which the salesmen and the brokerage houses can earn commissions. The more recommendations, the more trades, the more commissions. There's nothing wrong with that. Investors want as much information as they can get, and we're adult enough to know that it doesn't come free.

But information is one thing; expecting the bearers of it to be seers is something else.

Sometimes analysts and professional money managers can't even win when they're right. Their interest can create fashions, running groups of stock to unrealistic levels in terms of earnings,

creating expectations of still higher levels to come. And the higher the prices, the greater the interest of the tipsters.

But the greater the price of shares in relation to earnings, a characteristic of market darlings, the greater their vulnerability to the bad news that must surely come at some point.

In many cases, the tips are reasonable. What's missing are tips on the other side — to sell. But brokerage houses don't like making those kinds of tips. They are remembered by firms who later want to issue more shares; brokers who have advised clients to sell may not get future profitable underwriting business. And companies on which the analyst wants to keep an eye may not be too keen to provide more information in the future.

If you absolutely must rely on tips, a good newsletter might be useful — but check on its track record before subscribing. I know of people who follow them and do quite well. The ones with a large following can be self-fulfilling over a short period of time. That's fine if you recognize this, are prepared to move quickly, and to sell before the bloom wears off the latest recommendation.

Let's face it: we don't care why a stock goes up, just so long as it does and we make a profit.

So what do we do if tips are not to be relied upon? Stick pins in the daily quotations list? Surprisingly, we let the market itself tell us what we should be doing. It is the most reliable tipster of all. We need only learn how to read the signals, to measure mass market psychology.

In the months ahead, we'll find out exactly how to do this — without guessing, without relying on tips and without advanced degrees in finance and economics. **C**

*Letters to Sydney Tremayne, author of Take the Guessing Out of Investing, can be sent to Northeast Publishing, 1668 Barrington St., Halifax, N.S., B3J 2A2. Please include stamped self-addressed envelope for reply.*



# GADABOUT

## ART GALLERIES & MUSEUMS

**Anna Leonowens Gallery.** (N.S. College of Art & Design). March 5-9: Gallery III: *Sticks and Stones* — Joanne Poirier, jewelry. March 12-29: Gallery I: *Working Drawings and One Candle* — Michael Byron. March 12-16: Gallery II: *Skin* — Mark Verabioff, video-installation. Gallery III: *Thadeus Holownia* — photographs. March 19-23: Gallery II: *Printmakers Group Exhibition* — student work. Gallery III: *Darcy Mann* — paintings. March 26-30: Gallery II: *Shawn Westlaken* — sculpture and painting. Gallery III: *Not Forgetting* — Yves Arcand, color photographs. April 2-20: Gallery I: *Audio by Artists Festival* — a retrospective of 10 years of *Audio Arts Magazine*, organized by Micah Lexier. Apr. 2-13: Gallery II: *Audio by Artists Festival* — recent additions to the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design's Audio Tape Collection, organized by Micah Lexier. April 2-6: Gallery III: *Material Culture* — Paul Mullin and Ruth Meal, weaving. April 9-13: Gallery III: *Beaty Popescu*; MFA Exhibition. 1891 Granville St., 422-7381, Ext. 184. Hours: Tues.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thurs., 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Closed Sun. & Mon.

**Dalhousie Art Gallery.** To March 24: *Expron: Expressionism Ontario* — an extensive display of contemporary work by 17 Ontario artists, sponsored by Lavalin Incorporated. March 28-April 28: *20th Century European Sculpture* — an exhibition of some 40 sculptures, assembled for the first time from the collection of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. Includes work by Rodin, Renoir, Maillol, Armitage, Calder, Moore, Hepworth, Arp and others. **Brian Porter: Paintings and Drawings** — recent work by Nova Scotian artist Brian Porter, organized by the Dalhousie Art Gallery. Dalhousie University Campus, 6101 University Avenue. Hours: Tues.-Fri., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tues. evening, 7-10 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 1-5 p.m.; Closed Mondays.

**Mount Saint Vincent University Art Gallery.** To March 10: Downstairs & Upstairs: *Tom Miller and the Mermaid Theatre* — masks, puppets and people. March 15-April 7: Downstairs: *An Atlantic Album: Photographs from 1870 to 1920* — 80 photographs of people, places and activities provide an unparalleled visual commentary on some of the social history of the period in the

Atlantic region. Upstairs: *Women's Work from Pangnirtung* — a traditional role for Inuit women was to make clothes from caribou or seal skins for their families. Today a small group of women have adapted those skills and now use cloth to make traditional garments which feature stunning embroidered depictions of Inuit life. Another group produces hand-woven woolen garments and tapestries. April 12-May 5: Downstairs: *Pegi Nicol MacLeod 1904-1949* — this exhibition of over 50 works is drawn principally from the collection of the Robert McLaughlin Gallery which is circulating it nationally. Upstairs: *Samplers: A New Way of Seeing*; Leslie Sampson — the conventional needlework sampler is used as a format to introduce feminist issues and social concerns. This exhibition is one part of a two-part series featuring emerging Halifax artists (organized by Cliff Eyland, MSVU Exhibitions Officer).

**Eye Level Gallery.** March 5-23: *Bernie Miller* — sculpture. *Greg White* — sculpture. April 2-20: *Michel Sarrouy* — photographic installation. *Danica Jofich* — installation. 1585 Barrington St., Suite 306. Hours: Tues.-Sat., 12 noon-5 p.m. Closed Sun. & Mon. **The Army Museum Halifax Citadel.** Closed for major exhibition renovations; scheduled to re-open June, 1985. From its new location in the Cavalier Building this landmark Halifax institution will place fresh emphasis on Atlantic Canada's military heritage.

**Dartmouth Heritage Museum.** To March 3: *Doug Allan* — photographs. March 4-24: *Jill Field (Alexander)* — mixed media. 100 Wyse Road. For information call 421-2300.

**Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.** March-April 28: Main and Mezzanine Galleries: *A Record for Time* — organized by the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia and supported by Museum Assistance Programs, National Museums of Canada. Second Floor Gallery: Canadian painting from The Collection — *Folk Art*. 6152 Coburg Road. Hours: Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat., 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Thurs., 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun., 12 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

## THEATRE

**Theatre Arts Guild,** 6 Parkhill Road, Halifax, presents *The Caretaker*, by Harold Pinter, March 1, 2, 7, 8 & 9 at 8:00 p.m. Reservations: 477-2663 or 435-1098.

**Neptune Theatre.** March 15-April 7:

*A Moon for the Misbegotten* — This, the last completed play by four-time Pulitzer Prize-winning Eugene O'Neill, has been acclaimed as a milestone of contemporary American theatre. *A Moon for the Misbegotten* plots the fateful encounter of three mistrustful misfits one moonlit night. Each character, seeking an impossible solace, is faced with disappointments and broken hopes.

## IN CONCERT

**Rebecca Cohn Auditorium.** March 7: Oxford String Quartet. March 9: a concert by Quebec's Number One Jazz Quartet "UZEB." March 15: Mary O'Hara. March 28: Ferrante & Teicher. March 24: Bob McGrath of Sesame Street. March 29: Breath of Scotland. April 14: Dizzy Gillespie and Moe Koffman with the Dizzy and Moe Supershow. April 16: The Canadian Brass.

## SPORTS

**Dartmouth Sportsplex.**

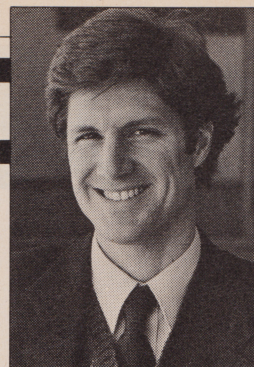
March 11-13: Dartmouth Minor Hockey Tournament. March 14-15: Cole Harbour/Bel Ayr Hockey Tournament. March 29-31: Oldtimers Hockey Tournament.

## CLUB DATES

**Teddy's:** Piano Bar at Delta Barrington Hotel. *Kim Bishop* continues to March 9. March 11-16: *Allan Fawcett*. Remainder of March: *Kim Bishop*. Hours: Mon.-Sat., 9 p.m.-1 a.m. **The Village Gate:** 534 Windmill Road, Dartmouth. Mar. 1 & 2: *Riser*. March 7, 8 & 9: *Secret Treaties*. March 14, 15 & 16: *The Aviators*. March 21, 22 & 23: *Southside*. March 28, 29 & 30: *Rox*. Apr. 4, 5 & 6: *Tense*. Apr. 11, 12 & 13: *Track*. April 18, 19 & 20: *Southside*. Apr. 25, 26 & 27: *Domino*. Hours: Mon.-Wed., 10 a.m.-11 p.m.; Thurs.-Sat., 10 a.m.-12:30 a.m. **The Ice House Lounge:** 300 Prince Albert Road, Dartmouth. March 4-9: *Tense*. March 18-23: *Screaming Trees*. Hours: Mon.-Fri., 11:30 a.m.-2 a.m.; Sat., 5 p.m.-2 a.m.

**Privateers' Warehouse:** Historic Properties. Middle Deck: March 4-9: *Bill Stevenson and the Ocean Limited Band*. March 11-16: *Bleeker Street*. March 18-23: *Cecile Frenette*. Hours: Lower Deck, 11:30-12:30 a.m. Middle Deck, 11-2:30 a.m. **C**





# History repeats itself

**Ci'tadel** *n.* Fortress, esp. guarding or dominating city.

The Citadel and the city. One imperial mother, two colonial sisters. Protector, protected. The relationship goes back a long way. It started even before Cornwallis and his colonists arrived to hack Halifax from the forest and erect the wooden pallisades of Citadel Hill's first fortification. It started when the British government decided to establish a permanent colony and naval stronghold to counterbalance and conquer France's fortress at Louisbourg.

The relationship grew over the centuries and was tested in each of the British Empire's battles and wars. Halifax was a major naval base for expeditions against the American colonies during the American Revolution and then in the War of 1812 with the United States. It was a key port during the First and Second World Wars. The relationship was strongest during wars and somewhat weaker in periods of peace.

Sometimes the Citadel was the centre of the action and sometimes it was forgotten, but it was always a fixture set in the very heart and soul of the city. Today it is a fixture taken for granted like any natural phenomenon — like the harbor, the islands and the ocean. The citizens expect that the Citadel will always be there, maintained and run for recreation, if not protection. The city could not give up its waterfront and it cannot give up its Citadel.

Today the Citadel faces a crisis, not for the first time in its history. With the 1989 completion of the restoration in sight, the federal government put the project on ice indefinitely as part of its effort to control government spending.

Twenty-five per cent of Parks Canada's 1985-86 budget cut will come from the Citadel restoration. Millions of dollars that would have been available for local contractors to complete the job have been redirected. The 32-member team of specialists will be laid off and disbanded. Much of the fort will remain closed to the public. The Citadel has weathered many storms and will probably weather this one.

Sometime, somehow the restoration will get finished. But will it get finished in our lifetime?

If there is any comfort in the irony of history repeating itself, we can regard the present plight as a repetition of a chronic and historic cash shortage. *Plus ça change, plus ça la meme chose.*

The history of the present Citadel's construction — which started in 1828 — can tell us a lot. It is actually the fourth fortress on the hill but was almost never started because of financial considerations. When the idea of new defences at Halifax was considered in the early 1800s, the British government frowned upon pouring pounds into colonial fortifications. It took a high-level commission, which was investigating Canada's defences, the Duke of Wellington's authority and a lot of fast talking in Parliament to get the money to start the project. The Citadel was supposed to cost £116,000 and be completed within six years. It wasn't considered to be finished for 28 years. It cost £242,122.

The fort's initial plan was straight forward — it resembled an elongated star. Implementation of the design, however, was a long, convoluted and acrimonious affair. Nine Commanding Royal Engineers applied their skills and idiosyncracies to the project — each paying deference to the main design but trying to leave his mark on history. Communication between Halifax and London was slow and the London bureaucracy was even slower. Decisions took months and often years. Design revisions were rejected, budgets slashed and completions delayed.

When the Citadel was finally finished, it was largely obsolete because the technology of war had passed it by. But its significance was not its defensive role (it never did "fire a shot in anger," although the hill did partially shield the south end from the effects of the 1917 explosion that killed 1,654 people). Its true role was its contribution to the city's economic and social life. Merchants prospered by supplying building supplies and labor for its construction and food for its regiments. Many different regiments — particularly the Highlanders — left their marks. The officers gave tone to the

colonial city and the soldiers found their traditional seats in bars and brothels on Barrack Street, now Brunswick Street.

The Garrison Clock kept time for soldiers and citizens, the fort's military mast flew messages to surrounding defence instalments and ships while the commercial mast alerted merchants to the arrivals of their ships. The hill's grassy slopes were used for grazing cattle, sightseeing or as a convenient cross-town route.

In short, the Citadel helped shape the city, and the city gave the Citadel its context. Perhaps then, it is reasonable to look at this historic relationship in today's crisis. The Citadel story has come full circle and history is in danger of repeating itself.

The Citadel's original six-year construction schedule dragged out in the same way as the restoration timetable is being stretched. Restoration started when it was designated as a national monument in the early 1950s but work progressed in fits and starts. It took until 1976 for officials to agree on a comprehensive development plan and for Treasury Board to commit funds. The restoration was on schedule when the new federal government stopped development funding effective this April 1.

While Ottawa refuses to spend money on developing historic parks, Halifax MP Stewart McInnes says the government is receptive to private sector initiatives to raise money to complete the Citadel.

Why should the people of Halifax feel obliged to donate money to complete what was historically a responsibility of a government centred in London and then in Ottawa? For no other reason than to claim what has always been part of our history and our landscape. Whoever pays the piper calls the tune and the absentee conductor has stopped the music for now. But if the people who live here want to see the completion of the restoration and if we want to enjoy the full recreation potential, contributions must be made now.

If the Citadel is finally restored, it will be because we wanted it enough to make it happen. **C**

*Patrick Kennedy is a restoration architect working on the Halifax Citadel.*



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